



# CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS



A branch of Kent Beekeepers Association

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Unfortunately I had to miss out on our honey tasting meeting in early October, due to business travel, but by all accounts it was very successful, with a number of new beekeepers participating. Our next meeting will provide an opportunity for all to reflect on the past year, particularly our meetings and other events. Please come along to tell your committee what you'd like the association to plan for in 2014. If you are interested to join the committee, then this is the time to express interest. We are still keen to hear from anyone who would like to help out as membership secretary – see previous newsletters for more details.

My bees have been exploiting the ivy, picking up 6-8kg of stores in the last 2 weeks – so much that I am considering a late harvest.

There is a danger that this plan will leave them short of stores for the winter, and so I will be acquiring fondant to replace any late honey that I take. Our [discussion forum](#) occasionally tackles the question of brands/prices of fondant – Elizabeth's bakery in Folkestone is

recommended by Dougal as a cheap local source of 12.5kg blocks, for £14.

Julian is recruiting assistants for our last Brogdale event of the season on 19-20 October, so if you fancy free entry in exchange for a few hours of stall support,

please contact him. Some members will want to compete in the Dover Honey Show on 19<sup>th</sup> October. Finally, there's an opportunity to join our neighbours in Thanet BKA on 22<sup>nd</sup> October for a quiz night in Cliffsend. Please use the forum to sign up for the CBKA team, or contact me!

Adrian

### Next Meeting

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR AND AGM

Whitefriars conference room, Canterbury

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> November**

**7.30-9.30pm**

Joining instructions

– see page 2

## CBKA OFFICERS

**Chairman:** Julian Audsley

Briar House  
Waldershare Road  
Ashley  
Dover CT15 5JA  
0776 183 9119

**Treasurer:** Joan McAllister

42 Canterbury Road  
Lydden  
Dover CT15 7ER  
07824 668042

**Secretary & Newsletter**

**Editor:** Adrian Davis

24 The Grove  
Deal CT14 9TL  
07816 975286

**Committee Members**

Chris Bristow  
Michael Roberts  
David Cockburn  
Chris Bailes  
Maggie McKenzie

The easiest way to contact us is via the website, but you can also e-mail

**cantbees@gmail.com**

Contact Newsletter editor to contribute articles

## OCTOBER 2013

A newsletter for friends and members of Canterbury BKA

## DATES FOR DIARY

19-20 October 2013	Brogdale Apple Festival
19 October 2013	Dover Honey Show, Bruderhof Community, Nonington
22 October 2013	Thanet BKA quiz night
24-26 October 2013	National Honey Show, St Georges College, Weybridge <a href="http://www.honeyshow.co.uk">www.honeyshow.co.uk</a>
6 November 2013	AGM and review of the year, 7.30-9.30pm, Whitefriars Conference room, Canterbury
9 November 2013	BBKA module exams, Lynsted
10 November 2013	Dr Sara Robb, cosmetics and creams. Thanet BKA Northwood Social Club, 55 Northwood Road, Ramsgate
16 November 2013	"Bee improvement for All", Pulborough, West Sussex
17 November 2013	KBKA autumn lectures, Village Hall, Lenham
Early December 2013	CBKA Christmas social event (pub to be confirmed)

## DIRECTIONS

### Whitefriars Conference room Canterbury

Free parking in the multi-storey car park. Collect your ticket and this will be processed during the meeting. Park on the 1st floor on the left and take the corridor down to the management suite at the bottom of the corridor on the left. Please car share if you can, since Whitefriars have to pay the cost of this on our behalf.

### By car Set Sat Nav post code to CT1 2TF

Go around the ring road and at the roundabout opposite the Police Station turn through the city walls into Watling Street. Go past the bus station on your right and the Whitefriars multi-storey car park is straight ahead and right at the mini-roundabout. If coming from the south go down the Old Dover Rd and straight across the roundabout through the city walls.

### By foot / BUS

Between the Bus Station and Whitefriars center there is an alleyway between Boots and Next. Here there is an entrance to the car park. Go to the first floor by lift and turn left out of the lift through double doors. The management suite is 20 yds along this corridor.

## BROGDAL APPLE FESTIVAL

The last CBKA public event for the year is Brogdale's Apple Festival near Faversham ME13 8XZ on Sat 19th and Sun 20th October. I am looking for some volunteers to help me present Canterbury Beekeepers to the many visitors. This involves talking to people about bees and honey – all of you will know more than the visitors! Showing them the bees in the observation hive or giving people an opportunity to taste a range of our honeys and helping take money for purchases.

Any offer of help is welcome but I suggest you offer to do either a morning or afternoon shift allowing you to look around for the rest of the time but any offers of help are welcome. The show opens at 10.00 and closes at 5.00 on both Sat and Sun although after 4.30 there are very few people and we usually start to pack up. I need at least one person to help me set up each day at 9.00 on the Sat and 9.30 on Sunday.

Please indicate if you can do the morning or afternoon shift changing over at about 1.30 or if you can do all day but taking breaks as opportunity allows. If more restricted do let me know what you can do and I will try to fit you in. I will then issue a rota showing when people are on duty.

The advantage for you is free entry to the day (normally £8) and gives you the opportunity to take a guided walk and tasting of the fruit orchards (tractor ride if you are lazy) and of course the tastings of apples and pears with the opportunity to buy. There are many other exhibits available the website link is [here](#).

If you have extracted some honey why not bring some along for sale – even if it's only a small amount. I can give you advice if you would like.

Julian

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

### Subs due 1<sup>st</sup> October

Our new year started on the 1st October and you should have already received by email information/[links](#) to enable you to renew your membership of the Kent Beekeepers Association. You will notice that the subscription has risen from £42 to £44, which includes Beecraft magazine, BBKA 3rd party insurance and the BDI premium for up to three colonies. KBKA members receive Beecraft at a 25% reduction to the price paid by other subscribers. Don't forget to GiftAid your membership – it costs you nothing, and enhances the value of your membership subscription to CBKA/KBKA by 20%.

The renewal forms are available from our website [here](#) – and if it is convenient for you, the transaction can be completely electronic, as we can accept BACS transfers into our bank account.

Joan

## EAST KENT ASSOCIATIONS

Here's a quick digest of what the other local associations are doing over the next few weeks.

[Thanet BKA](#) have invited us to two of their upcoming events. The first is a pub quiz. It will be at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 22nd October** at The Sportsman, Sandwich Road, Cliffsend, Ramsgate. It will be a "table quiz" with teams of up to 8. There is a charge of £6 per person, but this is to cover the cost of refreshments (sandwiches etc.), which will be served by the pub, and other sundry items. Half the questions will be about beekeeping and half will be general, so they hope Association members will bring friends and family, not just beekeepers. Drinks must be purchased from the pub. There will be a raffle in aid of Bees Abroad. We'll need to give them an idea of numbers, so that they can arrange catering. Please let Adrian know if you are interested to join in.

On **Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup>**, Thanet BKA have invited Dr Sara Robb to talk about her cosmetics and creams. This will be held at the Northwood Social Club, 55 Northwood Road, Ramsgate. The start time is yet to be confirmed, but may be about 1.30pm. I met Sara at the 2012 Spring Convention, and she is an enthusiastic speaker.

Dover and District BKA's Honey Show is at the Bruderhof Community Hall in Nonington on **19<sup>th</sup> October**. Contact the Show Secretary, Chris Holdstock on 01304-828041. [DDBKA](#) have an interesting and knowledgeable speaker lined up for **30<sup>th</sup> November** at Alkham Village Hall – Steve Alton talking about "Plants for your garden to keep bees happy all year". The meeting is at 2.30pm. Steve runs a company called Sussex Nature which advises on pollinator-friendly planting schemes, and sells seeds through his company FlowerScapes. He used to run UK programme for the Millennium Seed Bank, at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

## BEE IMPROVEMENT FOR ALL

### A joint BIBBA/ West Sussex BKA event

In conjunction with the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA) the West Sussex BKA will be holding a "Bee Improvement for All" day. This is one of a number that BIBBA will be staging throughout the country on a regional basis. This is an all-day event aimed at encouraging all beekeepers to improve their bees. The purpose is to help all beekeepers to continuously assess their colonies, so they have a good idea of which queens to cull, and which colonies to take queen cells from when they need new queens.

There will be tuition on how to raise queens using queen cells that bees often present us with during the summer, as well as some simple "artificial" techniques that may be suitable for the more advanced beekeeper, or those working in groups.

Date:- Saturday 16th November 2013

Time:- 9.30-4.30

Venue:- Pulborough Village Hall, Pulborough, West Sussex <http://www.pulbvh.org.uk/>

Cost:- £15/head. £8/head for under 18, but must be accompanied by a fee paying adult. To include refreshments, but not lunch. A Booking Form can be found on the [CBKA website](#) (you'll need to login).

For those who are busy on 16<sup>th</sup> November, this event is also being run on Sat Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 2013 at Bracknell, Berkshire, in conjunction with Wokingham and District BKA. Further details can be found on [www.dave-cushman.net/bee/beeimprovementforallday.html](http://www.dave-cushman.net/bee/beeimprovementforallday.html)

## KBKA EDUCATION

### Lenham Lectures

After a gap last year, KBKA is again holding a pair of lectures in the Community Hall in Lenham ME17 2QT on Sunday 17th November 2013. Doors open: 1pm. Lecture starts: 1.30pm.

David Rudland: '**Winter into spring.**' Factors which affect colonies in harsh winter. David is a Surrey beekeeper with 150 colonies and a seasonal bee inspector.

Michael Keith-Lucas: '**How plants solve crimes.**' Uses of pollen to place suspects at the scene of crime, solving honey fraud etc. Michael is a retired academic plant scientist.

Refreshments: Lesley Fancote's delicious tea. Also three stalls: books, equipment, bumble bees.

Ticket price: £5 in advance, £6 on door.

Tickets from:

Kit Erhardt: [kit.erhardt@doctors.org.uk](mailto:kit.erhardt@doctors.org.uk), 01 689 860805.

Clive Watson: [watson30@talktalk.net](mailto:watson30@talktalk.net), 0208 6583786.

John Hendrie: [bibba26@talktalk.net](mailto:bibba26@talktalk.net), 01732 833894.